

SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu

ZSOM Alumni Newsletter

November 2025

Greetings!

I hope you are enjoying the fall season, as we celebrate growth and connection — spotlighting alumni accomplishments, school news, and the impact of the Zucker School of Medicine community!

In October, we celebrated **Alumni Weekend** and launched our first-ever **Inaugural Alumni Awards**, recognizing the outstanding achievements and contributions of our graduates. Be sure to check out the highlights below.

Looking ahead, the **Alumni Holiday Party** will be held on **Thursday, December 4th, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Maiella, Long Island City**. Bring your holiday cheer, reconnect with fellow alumni, and celebrate the season! Don't forget to RSVP below and watch for future reminders!

The Zucker School of Medicine also proudly hosted its **15th Annual White Coat Ceremony**, welcoming a new class of future physicians. This memorable event marked the formal entry of students into the medical profession, honoring their dedication, commitment, and promise to patient care. I've shared more details below.

This year marks the **10th anniversary of ZSOM's first graduating class!** To celebrate, we're highlighting some of the remarkable achievements of alumni from the Class of 2015. From advancing medical research to leading in healthcare and making a difference in their communities, these graduates continue to inspire and impact the world. Read their stories below and see how the Class of 2015 is shaping the future of medicine.

Please keep those updates coming in and share your news - you can always email me at [**SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu**](mailto:SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu), or use the **online form** to drop a quick line. I hope to hear from you soon!

All the best,

Anne Dalgish Koestner
Director of Development and Alumni Affairs

Alumni News:

📅 **Save the Date - Alumni Holiday Party!** 📅

'Tis the season to celebrate! We're delighted to invite you to our **Alumni Holiday Party** on **Thursday, December 4th**, from **6:30–8:30 p.m.** at **Maiella in Long Island City!** Join us for a joyful evening filled with festive cheer, delicious food, and wonderful company as we celebrate the season and reconnect with friends. As the holiday season approaches, there's no better time to catch up, laugh, and share in the warmth of the holidays—it's a night you won't want to miss! See below for details and to **RSVP**, or you can email us directly at **SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu**.



Zucker SOM Alumni Holiday Party

LOCATION

Maiella - 4610 Center Blvd, Long Island City, New York 11109

DATE AND TIME

12/04/25 6:30pm - 12/04/25 8:30pm US/Eastern

Deck the halls and kick off the holiday party season with your ZSOM alumni and friends!

I'll Be There!

Maybe

I Can't Make It

Zucker SOM Alumni - Philadelphia Meet-Up !

Calling all ZSOM alumni in the Philadelphia area! We're excited to invite our ZSOM alumni in the Philadelphia area to an informal happy hour on **Thursday, November 13, from 6–8 p.m. at Harp & Crown**. Join us for a relaxed evening of reconnecting and networking with fellow alumni—drinks and appetizers are on the Alumni Office! This gathering is a great opportunity to meet others in the growing Philly alumni community and catch up in a fun, casual setting. If you're able to attend, **please email SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu**.

Feel free to share this invitation with any alumni in the area we may have missed. We'd love to see you there!



ZSOM Alumni Weekend

On October 11, we had the pleasure of hosting **Alumni Weekend**, welcoming back our incredible alumni from ZSOM! The celebration included our **inaugural Alumni Awards Ceremony**, honoring Dr. Linzee Mabrey '16, Dr. Christine Cummings Liverpool '20, and Dr. Peter Nauka '19 for their achievements in research, leadership, and service. The evening was filled with laughter, stories, and meaningful connections — a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our alumni community and honor those making a difference in their fields! Click **here** to read more about Alumni Weekend!



Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence

We're proud to share that **Drs. Maxine Ames** and **Alan Gandler**, members of our **inaugural Class of 2015**, were recently spotlighted in the latest edition of Northwell Health's *Frontiers* magazine. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Zucker School of Medicine's inaugural Class of 2015—celebrating a decade since graduating from the school's innovative, hands-on, and humanistic medical education program.

Click [**here**](#) to read more about their story, and click [**here**](#) to read more about our class of 2015 graduates!

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

In 2015, the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell graduated its inaugural class. The school, which was the first allopathic medical school to open in New York in more than 40 years, admitted its first students in 2011, and among them were Maxine Amos and Alan Gendler — who soon became an item. The pair remained together throughout medical school and successfully navigated the “couple’s match” in the residency application process — both secured residencies at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. They married in 2018 and live in Pennsylvania with their two children.

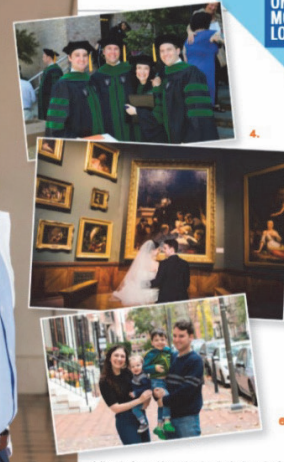
Currently, Dr. Amos is an attending physician at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Dr. Gendler is a pulmonologist at Penn Medicine.

To help mark the 10-year anniversary of that first graduation, here’s a look at Dr. Amos and Dr. Gendler then and now. For more profiles of alumni from the 2015 class, scan the QR code.



Photos: Holly Clark Photography

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1. Newsday featured Amos when the school welcomed its first class in July 2011. Photo credit: Newsday
2. Amos enjoying her moment of fame. Photo credit: Newsday
3. Amos and Gendler on Match Day 2015, celebrating the fact that they were about to head to their residencies as a couple. Photo credit: Hofstra University
4. A view of the graduates of Class of 2015. Photo credit: Hofstra University
5. On November 3, 2018, Amos and Gendler were married at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. They’re sitting in front of “The Grease Clinic” by Thomas Eakins, which depicts an early surgery. Photo credit: Martin Reardon
6. Amos and Gendler with their two children. Photo credit: Erin Blewett

ONE MORE LOOK

Don’t Forget—ZSOM is Tier 1! Top-Tier Research, Lifelong Alumni Pride

A friendly reminder to all ZSOM alumni: the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell has been **recognized as a national leader in medical research, achieving Tier 1 status in the 2025 U.S. News & World Report rankings**. One of only 16 schools nationwide and just two in New York State to earn this honor, this distinction reinforces the world-class training you received and gives you a point of pride to highlight in your professional and mentoring activities.

Why This Matters to You as an Alum:

- Your training came from a school now validated at the highest national level of research excellence—this strengthens your professional credentials.
- It reinforces your educational foundation, benefitting from a curriculum paired with robust research infrastructure and faculty mentorship.
- When applying for grants, academic positions, leadership roles, or while mentoring students, you can reference this **Tier 1 designation** as evidence of the strength of ZSOM.
- This achievement enhances the value and prestige of ZSOM's alumni network.



We Want to Hear from You!

We value your input! As we plan upcoming alumni events, we want to ensure they reflect your interests. Please take a few moments to complete our short poll and share the types of gatherings you’d be excited to attend. Your feedback will help us

create meaningful, engaging, and memorable experiences for our alumni community! To share more about your interests or provide additional feedback, please email us at: SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu

Help Us Shape Alumni Events: What Experiences Excite You Most?

Networking Events/Professional Workshops

Social Gatherings in NYC or Regionally

Class Reunions

Service Outreach with Current Students (ex. Career Panels)

Alumni Advisory Committee

Family-Friendly Events

Email us with another Suggestion!

Alumni Classnotes:

Class of 2016:

- Rachel Pruitt gave Pediatric Grand Rounds at Northwell in October, showcasing her expertise in the "The Role of the Neurosurgeon in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology: From OR to Organoids".

Class of 2018:

- Congratulations to Jeremy Roberts on welcoming his son, Theodore "Teddy" James Roberts, in June!



Class of 2019:

- Brandon Alba is heading to the Cleveland Clinic in July 2026 for his Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship.

Class of 2021:

- Tommy Nguyen matched to the Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. He also serves as one of the chief residents in Anesthesiology at Maimonides Medical Center for the 2025–2026 academic year.
- Eric Neufeld matched to the Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Fellowship at The Rothman Orthopaedic Institute/Thomas Jefferson University, where part of his fellowship includes taking care of the Philadelphia Phillies MLB team!

Class of 2022:

- Adam Opitz-Leewe matched to the Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Class of 2023:

- Nicole Grbic, Zaeem Nazir, Gloria Lin (2017), Erica Cohn (2021), Will Liakos (2022), and Bria Midgette (2025), participated in the Dermatology Interest Group: ZSOM Alumni in Dermatology Panel in September, providing valuable insights and guidance to current students interested in dermatology.



Alumni Spotlight!

This new social media initiative highlights accomplishments and stories about our alumni on our website, social media, and internal publications.

If you are interested in being profiled, please use [this link](#) to answer a few short questions! We'd love to showcase what our alumni are up to!

[See past profiles here!](#)

Recent School News:

Planning with Purpose: Strategic Scope

The Zucker School of Medicine has made significant strides in advancing the goals set forth in its **2019–2024 Strategic Plan**. This collaborative effort—bringing together students, faculty, staff, and alumni—is centered on identifying key priorities and setting a clear vision for the future. Click [here](#) to read more on key highlights that reflect ZSOM's ongoing pursuit of academic excellence, innovation, and an inclusive learning environment!



John D'Angelo, MD, Begins Tenure as President and CEO of Northwell Health

Northwell Health, the largest nonprofit health system in the Northeast, has announced the appointment of **John D'Angelo, MD, as its new President and CEO**. Dr. D'Angelo succeeds Michael J. Dowling, who served in the role for 23 years and now transitions to CEO Emeritus. In this new capacity, Mr. Dowling will continue to advise the organization, focusing on public health initiatives, teaching, and writing. As he steps into his new role, Dr. D'Angelo will embark on a listening tour across the system to engage with team members, leaders, and community partners. His early priorities include advancing Northwell's growth, strengthening its leadership in health care, integrating the Nuvance Health merger, and driving digital transformation through the implementation of Epic. Click [here](#) to read more.



ZSOM HR Announcement:

**Join Our Leadership Team as Associate Dean for Student Affairs
at the Zucker School of Medicine**

The Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell is seeking an experienced and dynamic leader to serve as **Associate Dean for Student Affairs**. This individual will play a key role in supporting our students' academic success, personal growth, and professional development while fostering an inclusive and engaging learning environment. If you're passionate about medical education and student advocacy, we invite you to learn more and apply [here](#)!

Student News:

- What an incredible day! We were overjoyed to celebrate the **Class of 2029** at their **White Coat Ceremony**, a milestone moment in their journey to becoming healthcare professionals. The room was filled with cheers, smiles, and proud family faces as these future doctors donned their white coats for the very first time. Surrounded by friends, family, and faculty, with a keynote address from Northwell's new CEO, Dr. John D'Angelo, our students embraced this exciting step forward in their medical careers. We can't wait to see the amazing impact they will make! Click [here](#) to read more about our 15th White Coat Ceremony.



- On September 19, 2025, our first-year medical students took part in the annual **Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Training Day at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy**. After eight weeks of EMT training, students put their skills to the test in high-pressure disaster simulations, including active shooter, bus bombing, train derailment, car crash, and hazmat scenarios. Working in teams, they practiced critical decision-making, emergency response, and teamwork — hands-on experience that prepares them for their future careers as healthcare professionals. Click [here](#) to read **more**.



- Surya Indukuri, B.S., ZSOM Class of 2027, was the lead author of the study titled “**Anesthesiologist-led care speeds surgery and reduces complications for hip fracture patients,**” published in News-Medical. Click [here](#) to read more.

Faculty News:

- On September 19, 2025, the Zucker School of Medicine hosted the September Women in Medicine Conference (SWIMC), bringing together over 100 faculty, staff, students, and clinicians. Co-hosted by ZWIMS, Katz Institute for Women’s Health, Northwell Physician Partners, and the Kern Network, the one-day event featured keynotes, breakout sessions, and networking, all focused on leadership, personal growth, and thriving in medicine. Click [here](#) to read more.



- Henry Bernstein, DO, Professor of Pediatrics at Zucker School of Medicine, spoke to the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices about COVID-19 vaccine guidance. He highlighted that COVID vaccines are safe and effective but cautioned that requiring shared decision-making and provider prescriptions may create unnecessary barriers and not target those at highest risk. Click [here](#) to read more.
- Joseph Conigliaro, MD, Professor and Vice President of the Faculty Council, and Jonathan Grecco, MD, Assistant Professor at the Zucker School of Medicine, co-published a viewpoint in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* on August 29, titled *Optimizing Transitional Care Management: A Framework for Enhanced Primary Care Delivery*. The article addresses challenges in primary care and proposes solutions focused on proactive care transitions, team-based care, and leveraging virtual care technologies to create a more resilient, efficient, and patient-centered system. Click [here](#) to read more.
- Robert O. Roswell, MD, FACC, FACP, has been appointed Chair of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). He is the Associate Dean for Engagement and Excellence and Professor of Cardiology and Science Education at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Dr. Roswell also serves as Co-Director of the Cardiac ICU at Lenox Hill Hospital, Northwell Health. Click [here](#) to read more.
- Northwell marked one year of its new initiative, the Northwell Alumni Network, connecting former employees with each other and with the health system. If you are interested in joining, you will get access to job opportunities,

programs, communications, and more. You will also get discounted opportunities for CME and Grand Rounds once you are a member of the network. You can click [here](#) to sign up or [contact me](#) with any questions you may have.

- Northwell's Office of Physician Recruitment is also available to you with career opportunities - you can learn more at their website [here](#) or reach out to them directly [here](#).

Interested in supporting the ZSOM Community and leaving a permanent impact for years to come?

We invite our alumni and members of our community to consider supporting our bricks program initiative. With your gift of **\$350**, you will have the opportunity to engrave a brick that will be installed in the walkway in the rear of the building, making your mark on the future of medical education!

For more information on how you can support the bricks program initiative, click [here](#) for our brochure or click [here](#) to make a brick purchase!



[Click here for the Alumni website](#)

[Update contact info or send us news here](#)

What would you like to hear more about? Please email me at SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu with updates, suggestions, and requests, and don't forget to connect with us through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our LinkedIn group!



**Support the Zucker School of
Medicine**



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AT HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL®

*As a community member of the Zucker School of Medicine, you should **not unsubscribe** from this distribution list; doing so will remove you from all ZSOM communications, including announcements, event invitations, notices and more from the School of Medicine.*

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